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SPACE STATION DELIVERY GIVES STUDENTS HOLIDAY CHEER

Students from across the country received an extra dose of holiday cheer this past weekend with the successful delivery of their experiment samples to the International Space Station.

Twenty tiny experiment samples were delivered to the Space Station on December 25 aboard a Russian Progress supply ship. The experiment samples are from 11 schools and organizations representing students in elementary through high school. Eight of these schools and organizations also flew experiments on the Space Shuttle Columbia's last mission in 2003.

The schools and organizations participating in the Space Station experiments are:

Central Park Middle School, Scotia, New York
J.M. Bailey School, Bayonne, New Jersey
The Mott Hall School, New York, New York
American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York
Shoshone-Bannack High School, Pocatello, Idaho
Bishop Borgess High School, Dearborne Heights, Michigan
Ogdensburg Public School, Ogdensburg, New Jersey
East Norriton Middle School, Norristown, Pennsylvania
Shady Side Elementary School, West River, Maryland
Columbus High School, Columbus, Georgia
Walkersville Christian Family School, Stockton, Maryland

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The students are flying a variety of materials and seeds in 20 clear vials with lids. Each vial is wrapped in two vacuum bags and then placed in the Student Experiment Module (SEM) Satchel carrier. The experiments were compact enough that they took up very little room in the Progress spacecraft, which carried crucial supplies to the Expedition 10 crew, Commander Leroy Chiao and Flight Engineer Salizhan Sharipov.

The experiment samples will be returned to Earth on a future Space Shuttle flight. After receiving the space-flown samples, the students will be able to compare them to ground samples.

For information about NASA education flight programs on the Internet visit:

http://education.nasa.gov/divisions/flightprojoffice/overview/index.html

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